

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director*



Contact:
Jim Menard, Area Management Biologist
Scott M. Kent, Asst. Area Management Biologist
Phone: (907) 443-5167
Fax: (907) 443-5893

Nome Area Office
P.O. Box 1148
Nome, Alaska 99762
Date Issued: 8/6/2012
Time: 1:30 p.m.

SUBDISTRICTS 5 AND 6 COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING OPENING

Catches from the most recent fishing period in Shaktoolik and Unalakleet were 300 chums and 900 silvers by 16 permit holders in Shaktoolik Subdistrict and 1,500 chums and 2,700 silvers by 38 permit holders in Unalakleet Subdistrict. Silver catches were below average for this opening, but were affected by the weather limiting fishing time.

Commercial salmon fishing will be allowed in Subdistrict 5, the Shaktoolik Subdistrict and in Subdistrict 6, the Unalakleet Subdistrict for 48 hours from 6 p.m. Monday, August 6 until 6 p.m. Wednesday, August 8. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of net and set gillnets must have a stretched mesh size of 6 inches or less.

Directed silver salmon openings are not expected for the Golovnin Bay and Elim Subdistricts until later this week depending on the latest escapement counts of silver salmon. Niukluk River tower has been knocked out from high water for several days but counts of silver salmon were below average before the tower became inoperable. Additionally, silver salmon passage at the Kwiniuk River counting tower near Elim is the lowest on record. It is hoped that recent elevated water levels will lead to increase in observed passage of silver salmon at these counting projects.

Here are the escapement counts in Norton Sound this season:

North River: 1,600 silvers
Unalakleet River: 5,800 silvers
Shaktoolik River: 2,600 silvers
Inglutalik River: 500 silvers
Kwiniuk River: 230 silvers
Niukluk River: 100 silvers
Nome River: 100 silvers
Pilgrim River: 16,000 chums, 45,000 pinks, 6,200 sockeyes

Good Luck and Good Fishing.